

## The Weather Whisper

September 2021

### NWS Introduces Thunderstorm Damage Threat Categories and Increased WEA Activation

Brooke Hagenhoff, Meteorologist



The National Weather Service issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings (SVR) when a severe storm is occurring or imminent, letting the public know it's time to take action to stay safe (such as taking shelter). These warnings are Impact-Based, focusing on the expected storm impacts, allowing for more precise communication and recommended safety actions. Beginning August 3rd, to further improve communication, NWS nationally began including Damage Threat Categories to all SVRs. For the most destructive severe thunderstorms, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) will go out on cell phones, joining Tornado Warnings and Flash Flood Warnings which are already automatically sent.

The highest of threat category will be invoked if both hazards are expected (i.e. if the hail triggers Considerable but the wind triggers the Destructive category, then Destructive will be displayed). Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) messages will be activated on mobile devices whenever a 'Destructive' Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued. Recent example of storms in central Iowa that would have been worthy of the 'Destructive' tag include the July 9th baseball sized hail in the Des Moines metro and the August 10, 2020 derecho. For more information on WEAs, please visit [weather.gov/wrn/wea](https://weather.gov/wrn/wea).

### Much Needed Rain Fell Over Parts of Northern Iowa

Kenny Podrazik, Meteorologist

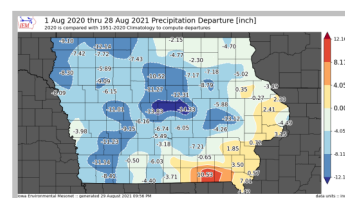
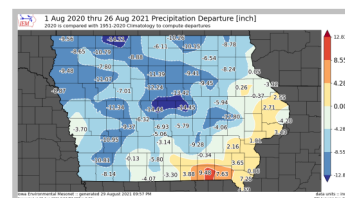
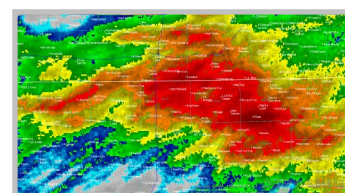
Some much needed rainfall accumulated over portions of northern Iowa from Thursday night, August 26th through August 28th. Worth County and counties further east in the northeast sections of the state received widespread 3 to 8 inches over the two day period. There were even localized higher amounts. Unfortunately all this rain caused flash flooding and river flooding over portions of north-central to northeast Iowa. The good news is that with the heavy rain falling over some drought stricken areas, it may help improve the drought conditions in the coming weeks.

The top right image is the 48-hour radar estimated precipitation for northern Iowa. Widespread 3 to 8 inches with some locally higher totals occurred. The middle image is Precipitation Departure from Normal from August 1, 2020 to August 26, 2021. The bottom left image is from August 1, 2020 to August 28, 2021. Notice the huge change in north-central to northeast parts of Iowa.

## NWS Des Moines

Cover Photo:

Radar imagery from the night of August 8th, 2021. A single storm moved across northern Iowa, producing at least 5 weak tornadoes. Thankfully the tornadoes were weak and remained confined to open land, resulting in no structure damage or injuries.



Click on the images to enlarge

## Welcome—Meteorologist-in-Charge Donna Dubberke

In mid-July NWS Des Moines welcomed our new Meteorologist-in-Charge, Donna Dubberke. Donna brings a wealth of meteorological and leadership experience to the office and we are glad to have her on the team. Donna says:

*Growing up in Texas, I wanted to be a meteorologist from the time I was 9 years old. I discovered the National Weather Service in junior high when my dad took me to storm spotter training, and I was completely hooked by that first introduction to supercells!*

*I have been with the National Weather Service since 1992, and served as a forecaster in Fort Worth,*

*TX, Norman, OK, and Davenport, IA. I then spent the next 15 years serving eastern Iowans as the Warning Coordination Meteorologist in Davenport. In 2018 I moved to La Crosse as the Meteorologist in Charge, and now am excited to return to Iowa and join the team at the NWS Des Moines office as the Meteorologist in Charge.*

*Outside of work, I enjoy exploring new places, geocaching, baking, volunteering with local robotics teams, and spending time with my pets. My husband and I have family and farming ties to central Iowa, and we are excited to start the next chapter of our lives here.*



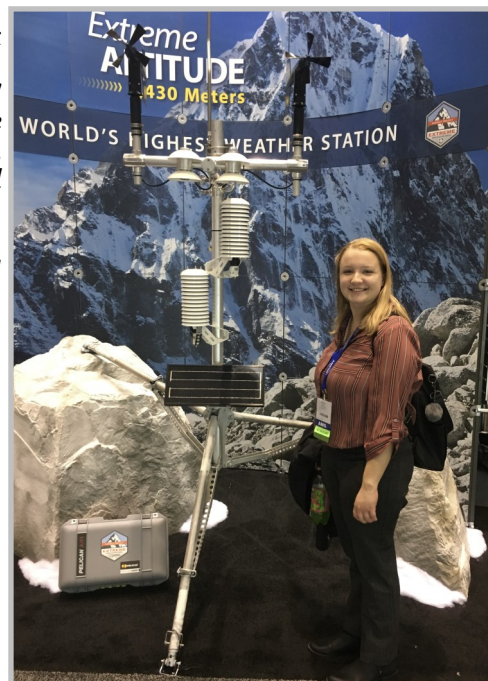
## Welcome—Meteorologist Ashley Bury

In early August NWS Des Moines welcomed our newest meteorologist, Ashley Bury. Ashley is new to the NWS and we're happy to welcome her! Ashley says:

*I am from West Bend, Wisconsin, and I graduated in 2020 from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM) with a Bachelor's Degree in Atmospheric Science. I gained experience forecasting and making decision support services by working at Innovative Weather, which is an operation created at UWM, made of students and alumni that make forecasts and DSS to various partners in WI, IA and the UP. I have been with Innovative Weather over the past few*

*years now and continued my work there into the early summer this year. I also just got married this past May! Things I also do for fun are gardening, flower arranging, stargazing/astronomy, hiking, and traveling.*

*I'm really excited and looking forward to joining the team!*



[Weather.gov/desmoines](https://www.weather.gov/desmoines)

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